

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291567 TOSEC 310265

FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 9052 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO USDOC,
RABAT, LISBON DTD 29 NOV 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9052

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, TPHY, TU, PFOR,

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SECRETARY RICHARDSON WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL:
TURKEY EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

1. SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND PARTY ARRIVED ANKARA
2:30 PM LOCAL TIME SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28 AND DEPARTED FOR
RABAT AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME NOVEMBER 29.
IN HIS AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS,
AS WELL AS IN HIS COMMENTS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS
MEETING WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL (ALL REPORTED IN IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM), RICHARDSON STRESSED THAT HE HAD
COME TO ANKARA AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT FORD TO
SYMBOLIZE THE DEEP CONCERN AND SYMPATHY OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE OVER THE TRAGIC EARTHQUAKE THAT HAS
TAKEN PLACE HERE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD COME TO
ANKARA TO REVIEW THE US ASSISTANCE EFFORT AND TO
IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL AREAS WHERE IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE
FOR THE US TO BE HELPFUL IF THIS SHOULD BE
NECESSARY.

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2. AFTER NOVEMBER 28 ARRIVAL, SECRETARY RICHARDSON, IN PREPARATION FOR HIS MEETING WITH PRIMIN, SPENT REMAINDER OF DAY IN EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS ON (A) THE RELIEF SITUATION IN THE EARTHQUAKE AREA AND DETAILS OF US RELIEF EFFORT, AND (B) THE CURRENT STATE OF OVERALL US/TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS.

3. ON MORNING OF THE 29TH AND AFTER EARLIER ATTENDING EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM MEETING, SECRETARY RICHARDSON MET WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL. FONMIN CAHLAYANGIL AND AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WERE ALSO PRESENT. SECRETARY RICHARDSON BEGAN BY BRINGING PERSONAL REGARDS OF PRESIDENT FORD TO PRIMIN AND RESTATING THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AS EARLIER SET FORTH IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT AIRPORT. AFTER ALLUDING TO SUPPORTING US AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS, HE COMPLIMENTED PRIMIN ON NOTABLE RELIEF PERFORMANCE OF TURKISH PEOPLE AND TURKISH GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE, THE PRIMIN EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR RICHARDSON VISIT AND FOR WHAT HAD BEEN DONE IN RELIEF EFFORT AT PRESIDENT FORD'S DIRECTION. HE NOTED THAT 130 VILLAGES HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE; TWO SMALL TOWNS HAD BEEN DESTROYED; 4000 HOUSES HAD BEEN WRECKED; 4000 PEOPLE WERE DEAD; AND 3000 WOUNDED. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALL THE WOUNDED WERE TAKEN CARE OF AND FOR THE PRESENT, HE FELT GOT HAD ENOUGH EQUIPMENT TO DEAL WITH WHAT HE DEFINED AS THE "FIRST PHASE" OF THE EMERGENCY. FOR THE MOMENT, THEREFORE, AND WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THIS FIRST PHASE OF EMERGENCY EFFORT, THE GOT WAS NOT REQUESTING ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG OR OTHER DONORS.

4. DEMIREL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOT WAS NOW FACED WITH THE LONGER-TERM PROBLEM OF GETTING THE VICTIMS THROUGHT THE WINTER AND THE SUBSEQUENT RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AREA ONCE THE WINTER HAS PASSED. "WHILE WE DO NOT NEED ANYTHING FOR THE TIME BEING" HE SAID, WE WILL PROBABLY NEED " A COUPLE OF THOUSAND MORE TENTS" IF THE TENTS BEING SENT TO US ARE ADEQUATE TO CONTENT WITH SEVERE WINTER TEMPERATURES.

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IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO FACE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS REGARDING WHAT PORTION OF THE VICTIMS IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO MOVE COMPLETELY OUT OF THE AREA AND HOW IT WOULD DEAL WITH THE LARGE LIVE-STOCK POPULATION WHICH WAS NOW IN MUCH DIFFICULTY. (ONE DETERRENT, HE ADDED, FROM MOVING LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS FROM THE AREA WAS THE LATTER'S RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE THEIR LIVE-

STOCK).

5. IN THE COURSE OF THE ENSUING CONVERSATION, SECRETARY RICHARDSON ADVISED THE PRIMIN THAT WITH THE COMPLETION OF OUR AIRLIFT (WHICH HE EXPECTED IN ANOTHER HOUR OR SO), THE USG WOULD HAVE MOVED APPROXIMATELY 1.2 MILLION POUNDS OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES INTO THE AREA. SECRETARY RICHARDSON ALSO REVIEWED THE MAJOR CATEGORIES OF THIS ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED THAT THE 1120 TENTS THAT HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE VAN AREA CARRIED WITH THEM, IN ADDITION TO A STOVE FOR COOKING, A SECOND STOVE WHICH WAS DESIGNED, TO MAKE THE TENT LIVABLE IN TEMPERATURES AS LOW AS MINUS 30 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. ALSO DURING THIS STAGE IN THE CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR MACOMBER NOTED THAT WHILE THE US AIRLIFT EFFORT WAS COMPLETED, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, WE WOULD KEEP THE US MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TEAM AND ITS EQUIPMENT AT VAN AIRPORT AS LONG AS THIS WAS NEEDED FOR THE COMPLETION OF OTHER AIRLIFT OPERATIONS STILL UNDERWAY.

6. AFTER A FURTHER REVIEW OF BOTH THE OVERALL RELIEF EFFORT AND CURRENT CONDITIONS IN THE AREA, THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO PRESENT US/TURK RELATIONS AND TO GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS. HERE THE PRIMIN RESTATED VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AND ARE WELL-KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT. HE REITERATED HIS OPPOSITION TO ANY SUMMIT MEETING WITH KARAMANLIS FOR WHICH THE GROUND WORK HAD NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY PREPARED BY AN EARLIER NEGOTIATING PROCESS AT LOWER LEVELS IN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO SEE THIS NEGOTIATING PROCESS WAS UNDERWAY, AND HE SPOKE OF HIS SATISFACTION WITH

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THE IMPORTANT FIRST STEP WHICH HE BELIEVED HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED BERN TALKS.

7. WITH RESPECT TO US/TURKISH RELATIONS, HE FELT THAT THE SAME BASIC REASONS THAT HAD BROUGHT US TOGETHER 30 YEARS AGO WERE STILL OPERATIVE, AND HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT A WAY WOULD BE FOUND TO SURMOUNT OUR PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. THE PRIMIN NOTED THAT SINCE THAT PARTNERSHIP HAD BEGUN, THERE HAD BEEN MANY PRESIDENTS AND MANY PRIME MINISTERS, THAT THESE CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP HAD NOT AFFECTED THE RELATIONSHIP, AND THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE FORTHCOMING CHANGE IN THE US PRESIDENCY WOULD EITHER. SECRETARY RICHARDSON STRONGLY CONCURRED IN THIS VIEW.

8. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, THE PRIMIN
SPOKE OF HIS SATISFACTION WITH HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH
PRESIDENT FORD. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD
BEEN "VERY HELPFUL" IN THIS PERIOD OF DIFFICULTY IN
OUR RELATIONSHIPS, AND THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR ALL
THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD DONE TO PROTECT OUR PARTNER-
SHIP. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE ROLE PRESIDENT
FORD HAD PLAYED, THE SPECTOR OF A UNIFICATION OF
COMMUNISTS
AND NATIONALISTS IN TURKEY HAD BEEN AVOIDED.
IN RESPONSE, SECRETARY RICHARDSON IN TURN SPOKE OF THE PRES-
IDENT'S APPRECIATION FOR WHAT PRIMIN DEMIREL
HAD ALSO DONE TO KEEP US/TURKISH RELATIONS ON AS EVEN
A KEEL AS POSSIBLE DURING THE DIFFICULT DAYS
WE HAD BEEN PASSING THROUGH.
MACOMBER
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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